

Key Ministers Of West Meet In Paris Today

By Bernard D. Nossiter
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PARIS, Dec. 13—The West's key Ministers meet here Tuesday at a NATO session carefully billed in advance as "bland" and "unexciting."

The occasion is the annual Paris gathering of the 15 NATO members. This one comes at a particularly awkward time.

There are plenty of unresolved issues confronting the NATO members: What to do about Germany's plea for a bigger role in nuclear weapons; the conduct of the war in Vietnam and its consequences for NATO forces; the very future of the NATO organization itself.

According to knowledgeable officials, no movement is expected on any of these questions here.

French Vote Sunday

The French take their second crack at electing a President on Sunday, so President de Gaulle's regime does not want to raise its proposal at this time to dismantle NATO's military structure.

It will be hard for Secretary of State Dean Rusk to talk about the effect on NATO of an escalation in the Vietnamese war since the United States is not yet ready to disclose how much its effort will be increased.

Finally, Germany's nuclear role will be left for the talks President Johnson is to have with Chancellor Erhard of Germany and Prime Minister Wilson of Britain later this month.

The American delegation, led by Rusk, arrived here yesterday. Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and

in the formal sessions is a McNamara proposal to set up targets for the size and composition of NATO forces five years from now. According to American sources, the United States delegation will seek agreement on the procedures to be used in determining these force levels.

This has some political overtones. It implies that NATO will still be very much in business in the 1970s, a view that President de Gaulle does not share.

The Washington team is also expected to discuss the possibility of NATO members' joining the United States in military situations outside Europe. Rusk and company are said to bring no specific proposals. But in the jargon used here, the Americans would welcome some "sharing of responsibilities" in the event of "turbulence in the former colonial regions."

Brosio Expresses View

In sum, it appears that Washington would like some more help from its NATO allies when the United States becomes involved in combat around the globe.

NATO's Secretary General, Manlio Brosio, referred to this obliquely at a news conference this evening. He said that NATO would not fulfill its proper function until the Europeans contributed more effectively to their own defense and took some role in the world at large.

Brosio also declared that the ten-nation nuclear committee, which was constituted at a meeting of Defense Ministers two weeks ago, "has been approved as a NATO body." France has refused to join the committee and claims that the organization is not a fully constituted part of the alliance and is subject to a French veto.

Treasury Secretary Henry H. Fowler came with him.

Rusk met with French Premier Georges Pompidou and Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville for 40 minutes this morning and was due to have dinner tonight with his opposite numbers from France, Britain and Germany. However, the British Foreign Secretary, Michael Stewart, will not be on hand. He suddenly fell sick with an infection in London this morning.

One item due to be raised